

Sabbath Moments
A Service of Healing and Wholeness

Sunday, April 27, 2008, 6pm
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

God's Glory Hidden in Jars of Clay

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.

(Jesus' prayer for all believers, from John 17:20-26)

We ask of our Lord God that we may fear God reverently and love God meekly and trust in God mightily.

(Julian of Norwich)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

(2nd Corinthians 4:7-12)

The glory of God is man fully alive.

(St. Iraneus, 2nd century)

Next make a medallion of pure gold [for the priest to wear]. Using the techniques of an engraver, inscribe it with these words: SET APART AS HOLY TO THE LORD ... But now you [all of us who follow Jesus] are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(Exodus 28:36, 1st Peter 2:9-10)

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

(From *Thoughts in Solitude*, by Thomas Merton)

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

(Ephesians 2:10)

O Lord my God, I would kneel before Thee in lowly adoration ere I set out to face the tasks and interests of another day. I thank Thee for the blessed assurance that I shall not be called upon to face them alone or in my own strength, but shall at all times be accompanied by Thy presence and fortified by Thy grace. ... I bless and adore Thy great name. I rejoice, O God, that Thou hast called me to be a member of the Church of Christ. Let the consciousness of this holy fellowship follow me whithersoever I go, cheering me in loneliness, protecting me in company, strengthening me against temptation and encouraging me to all just and charitable deeds.

(From *A Diary of Private Prayer*, by John Baillie)

Now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

(John 13:34-35)

God be with you as you enter a new week.